

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 22 are currently pending. Claims 1 to 6, 11 to 13, 15, and 19 to 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over United States Patent No. 5,905,824 (Delisle et al) in view of United States Patent No. 6,253,011 (Haake). The remaining claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The present application 09/838,137 filed April 20, 2001 and United States Patent No. 5,905,824 were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by JDS Uniphase Corporation (formerly JDS Fitel Inc.). Accordingly, any rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is traversed, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

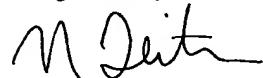
The claims of the application have been amended to correct several minor typographical errors, and to place them in a more grammatically correct form. None of the amendments constitutes the addition of new matter or changes the claims in any substantial way.

To overcome the objection to the Drawings, page 2, line 8 of the description has been amended to correctly refer to the "input plane" using reference numeral 20, as illustrated in the Figure 1 and 2 and as referred to in various other places in the text.

Accordingly, the application is now in condition for allowance, reconsideration of all objections and the allowance of the application are hereby requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Deposit Account No: 50-1465.

Respectfully,



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